

W. A. M. M. M.

FINEDON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year 1913,

BY

H. BURLAND, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.

AND

REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector,

BY

A. E. LLOYD, Cert. R. San. I.

Mem. Inst. Mun. Engineers.

FINEDON,

JANUARY, 1914.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FINEDON.

GENTLEMAN,

I have the honour to present to you my nineteenth Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Condition of the Township.

Population.

The population at the last Census was 3,782, and upon these figures I have based the calculations for the different rates. There has, of course, been an increase in the population since the Census was taken, but not sufficient to make any material difference to my calculations. There were 41 empty houses in the town at the time of my last report to you. All these, I think, are now occupied, and it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find an empty inhabitable house in the township.

Births.

The number of births registered during the year was 83, as against 76 last year, an increase of seven, and giving a rate of 21.9 per 1000 per annum. This is an increased rate. There were 5 illegitimate births registered.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered as occurring in the township during the year was 45, giving a rate of 11.9 per 1000 per annum. Five deaths of residents took place in Public Institutions, making the total number of deaths for the year 50, and giving a rate of 13.1 per 1000 per annum. These are reduced rates, and must, I think, be considered satisfactory.

Deaths of Infants.

Nine deaths of children under one year of age were registered, giving a rate of 108.4 per 1000 births registered. This is a slightly higher rate than last year, when it was 105.2 Six of the nine deaths were

ascribed to premature birth, five of them being under seven days old.

**Cancer Death-
Rate.**

There were six deaths registered as due to cancer, giving a rate of 1.5 per 1000 per annum. This rate shows a slight increase on previous years.

**Phthisis Death-
Rate.**

There were four deaths from phthisis, giving a rate of 1.06 per 1000 per annum. This is a reduced rate.

**Respiratory
Diseases other
than Phthisis.**

Respiratory diseases other than phthisis caused five deaths, giving a rate of 1.3 per 1000 per annum.

Zymotic Disease.

One case of diphtheria was fatal, giving a rate of .2 per 1000 per annum. This is a very low rate.

The ages at which the deaths occurred were as follows :—

Under one year, 9.	One and under two years, 1.	Two and under five years, 1.
Five and under fifteen years, 4.	Fifteen and under twenty-five years, 5.	Twenty-five and under forty-five years, 4.
Forty-five and under forty-five years, 6.	Sixty-five years and upwards, 20.	

Public Health.

The Public Health during the year has on the whole been satisfactory.

Notifiable Disease.

Ten cases of notifiable disease were reported : viz., two cases of scarlet fever, two cases of diphtheria, and six cases of phthisis.

The cases of scarlet fever were of a very mild type, they were well isolated, and the disease did not spread.

The cases of diphtheria occurred in the van of a travelling showman, and were imported from outside the district. One of the cases unfortunately proved fatal.

Of the six cases of phthisis reported during the year, three proved fatal. There can be no doubt that much needed help in the treatment of these cases will be given at the dispensaries, which in a short time will be in working order. The one for our district being at Wellingborough.

The necessities which can be now obtained by insured persons and their dependents under the Insurance Act prove also very helpful in the treatment of this scourge.

On receipt of a notification of phthisis I visited the patient, and afterwards kept the case under observation.

Dr. Muriset, the Chief Tuberculosis Officer of the County, also visited the notified cases, and instructed them as to their mode of living, and examined all contacts. Of course there is much risk to the other inhabitants of a small house where phthisis exists.

If, however, the patients will carry out the instructions given to them, this risk will be much reduced.

Where a case proved fatal, the premises were thoroughly disinfected, and in one case the bedding was destroyed.

There has been an increase in the prevalence of venereal disease during the last twelve months.

Cause :—Youths attached to itinerant shows.

A very few cases of chickenpox occurred during the year.

At no time was infectious disease epidemic, and it was not found necessary to close any school or department of school during the year.

This, I think, speaks well for the healthiness of the township.

The factories and workshops and outworkers' premises have been inspected at intervals during the year, and it has not been found necessary to make any reports to H.M. Inspector, or to take any legal steps to enforce the provisions of the Act.

Housing and
Town-planning
Act, 1909.

Seventy-nine houses were inspected during the year, and the details of such inspection and the results thereof will be found in the report of your Sanitary Inspector. No new houses have been built.

Water Supply.

The water supply has been good and ample.

Complaints are still received from the inhabitants at the Church end of the town about the unsatisfactory condition of the water, the result of the want of regular flushing out of the dead ends. This is certainly a matter which ought to be remedied.

I have examined 10 samples of well water during the year, and found one only unfit for drinking and all domestic purposes. I quite agree with your Sanitary Inspector that it would be better if all wells were done away with.

The consumption of water from the mains is 7.74 gallons per head of the population per day.

The scavenging has been done in a satisfactory manner during the year.

I heartily second the appeal made by your Sanitary Inspector to the property owners to supply proper receptacles for the house refuse, and to the occupiers to reduce the amount of such refuse to a minimum by burning all they can. If they would do this we should have much less paper flying about the streets on scavenging days.

The milk supply has been satisfactory, and all the premises in connection with this trade have been regularly inspected.

The sewers of the town have been kept in a satisfactory condition during the year, and no complaints have been received as to the purity of the sewerage effluent.

The slaughter-houses and bakehouses have been regularly inspected.

Your Sanitary Inspector has done much good work during the year, and has shown great tact in carrying out his duties, and I take this opportunity of acknowledging the great assistance he has been to me at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. BURLAND, M. O. H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

TOWN HALL,

FINEDON,

26th JANUARY, 1914.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FINEDON.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my first Annual Report of the sanitary condition of the Urban District of Finedon, and of the work executed under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, and other Acts, for the year ending the 31st of December, 1913.

Complaints

In all, 59 complaints were received and promptly attended to during the past year, and where nuisances were found to exist notices were served to abate same.

House Refuse

420 loads of house refuse have been removed during the year, giving an average of about 8 loads per week, as compared with 396 loads at an average of $7\frac{1}{2}$ loads per week the previous year.

The work of refuse removal would be greatly facilitated if occupiers would burn all the refuse possible. It would be a simple matter to burn the greater proportion of the kitchen refuse, such as animal and vegetable waste matter, old papers, etc., instead of placing it all in the refuse receptacles. Another point which calls for remark in this connection is the habit of throwing away partly consumed coal

and cinders. A large amount of the refuse carted away could be profitably consumed by the householders.

The work of providing the houses with suitable receptacles is progressing in a very satisfactory manner, but a great deal of attention will still have to be given in this direction during the ensuing year. During the year 67 houses have been supplied with proper galvanised sanitary dustbins in lieu of cardboard boxes, tin pails, wooden boxes, and other undesirable and insanitary receptacles.

Whilst the bins are a decided improvement on the wooden receptacles, they soon become foul unless the tenant does his duty and keeps the receptacle in a proper condition.

It has been found necessary to draw the tenants' attention to the fact in many instances, owing to the insanitary state the receptacles have been allowed to get in.

Bakehouses

There are six bakehouses on the register, and they are regularly inspected. It has been necessary on a few occasions to draw attention to the necessity for limewashing, when the same has received prompt attention.

There are no underground bakehouses in the district in use within the meaning of the Act.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses registered as such in the district.

Sewers

During the year the sewers throughout the town have been periodically inspected and flushed, and are in a satisfactory condition.

Slaughter Houses

There are six slaughter houses on the register. They are kept in good condition as regards cleanliness and the limewashing of the premises has been regularly carried out.

Factory and Workshop Acts

During the year the premises coming under these Acts have been inspected, and found to be in good condition generally as regards cleanliness, but a proper system of flushing is needed in many cases, as I have previously mentioned in my remarks on house drainage.

One notice was received from one of H. M. Inspector's of Factories calling attention to insufficient water closet accommodation at a factory in Summerlee Road. This has now been remedied by the provision of additional sanitary accommodation. A list of the additions and defects found and remedied is included in the Report, page 9.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops

There are 14 names on the register carrying on the trade of Cowkeepers, Dairymen, or Purveyors of Milk, 12 being Cowkeepers and Dairymen, and 2 Purveyors of Milk.

The cowsheds are for the most part in good condition structurally, and are kept in good condition as regards cleanliness. It was found necessary on a few occasions to draw the occupiers' attention to the need for limewashing, also for the removal of large accumulation of manure, which was duly complied with.

The drainage of Cowsheds and Cowyards is receiving my careful attention, and I am at the present moment in communication with two persons respecting the drainage of their farmyards and premises.

With reference to the cows, they are not inspected quarterly by a Veterinary Surgeon, as in other districts.

Petroleum Acts

The stores are kept in conformity with the regulations in force in the district, and are periodically inspected.

No new licences have been granted during the year.

Public Schools

The public Elementary Schools have been inspected, special attention having been given to the sanitary conveniences and outhouses. In each case the premises were found to be kept in a good condition as regards cleanliness.

Samples taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs' Act

I am indebted to the Clerk to the County Council (H. A. Millington, Esq.) for the following items of work done under the above Acts :—

One sample of new milk was purchased during the year for analysis, and proved to be genuine.

House Drainage

A good deal of attention and time has been given to the condition of house drains and sanitary fittings, and in 19 cases the drains have been repaired or relaid. This work being so very important, a considerable amount of time therefore is taken up, as numerous visits are made in each case whilst the work is in progress.

All new drains laid or repaired are tested with water before being covered up, and all existing drains, soil pipes, and ventilating shafts that are repaired or renewed tested with the smoke machine, which you have been good enough to purchase for me.

Another point which I should like to draw your attention to is the very small number of w.c.'s in the town provided with a proper system of flushing, and I trust that during the ensuing year you will give this very important matter your consideration, as the present method of flushing is far from satisfactory.

Another point I should like to mention is that I have recently found a few cases where the w.c.'s have not yet been connected to the public sewer, pails being still used. This matter is at the present time receiving my attention.

Written and
Verbal Notices

During the year the number of written notices served on owners or occupiers for the abatement of nuisances was 174, whilst 47 letters were written in respect of nuisances; and 32 verbal notices given.

Each notice set forth fully in detail the work required to be done to abate the nuisances existing.

I may mention that wherever possible verbal notices are given and every required explanation made, thus saving a good deal of trouble and delay.

In only two cases was it found necessary to issue statutory notices upon your instructions, otherwise the complaints generally were rectified without causing any friction.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply is excellent in quality and abundant in quantity in the town.

During the year I have taken 18 samples of water from various wells, and submitted same to your

Medical Officer for analysis. In one case the water from a well belonging to two houses situated in Tenter Lane was found to be polluted. The well was therefore closed, and the town water is being laid on.

There are still a large number of wells used for drinking and domestic purposes at the present time, but in view of the serious risk of surface pollution, owing to their unsatisfactory construction, etc., it would be more conducive to public health if nothing but town water were used.

I am indebted to your Surveyor (Mr. G. F. Bearn) for the following particulars :—

The average daily consumption of water was about 7·74 gallons per head of the population.

This is rather a low average taking into consideration the quantity used in manufacturing processes, and is probably due to the fact that so few of the houses are fitted with baths, etc.

During the year two new supplies from the water mains, etc., for drinking purposes, also 10 extensions of services have been completed.

During the year a considerable amount of time has been devoted to this very important matter, and some 79 inspections have been made with a view to ascertaining that the houses are kept in such a condition as to be reasonably fit for habitation.

The general character of the defects were houses dirty, dilapidated and unsafe, plaster off walls and ceilings, defective floors, damp walls, no through ventilation, defective windows, chimneys, etc., etc., particulars of which may be found on page .

Housing and
Town Planning
Act, 1909.

Infectious
Diseases.

A total of four cases of Infectious Disease have been notified during the year. These have all been kept under observation, and disinfectants supplied to infected houses, the premises afterwards being fumigated when certified to be free by the Medical Officer.

Six cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified to your Medical Officer of Health. The houses occupied by these cases have received careful attention, and

their sanitary conditions and surroundings inquired into.

In one case the bedding, etc., was destroyed after death from consumption, and compensation in respect of same was given.

Outworkers.

Where outworkers are employed in certain trades mentioned in the Factory and Workshops Act, lists of such outworkers have been kept on the prescribed form, copies of which were sent to the Sanitary Department. The dwellings of the outworkers have been inspected, and in some instances it was found necessary to warn the occupiers about the insanitary condition of the premises.

In one case a notification was received of a case of Scarlet Fever in an outworker's house. The usual precautions were therefore taken, and the home-work stopped by order of the Medical Officer, until a certain time had elapsed after fumigation.

Public Urinals and w.c.'s.

These are regularly inspected. Those attached to the various public houses, etc., are kept in a very fair condition. It has been necessary on a few occasions to draw attention to the necessity for limewashing, etc., when the same has received prompt attention.

During the year one new w.c. and urinal has been constructed at the Bell Inn, and the town water laid on.

I should also like to draw your attention to the need for enforcing the town water to be laid on to all sanitary conveniences in connection with hotels during the ensuing year, as the present method of flushing is far from satisfactory.

Unsound Meat, etc.

During the year the carcase of a sheep was surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for the food of man, also three tins of salmon, one tin of pears, two tins of condensed milk, and three tins of tomatoes.

House to House Inspection.

I have commenced a systematic inspection of your district, in compliance with the order of the Local Government Board, with a view of discovering any nuisance that might exist, or any breach of the town bye-laws.

In all 158 premises were inspected under this head,

and an inventory of the apparent condition of the sanitary arrangements taken and entered in a special book for that purpose. Particular attention was given to the flushing of w.c.'s, purity of water supply, nuisances from overcrowding, disconnection of waste pipes of sinks and baths, as well as rain-water down pipes from the drains, and the state of the houses and surroundings generally. I hope to complete this house to house inspection during the ensuing year.

Paving of Back-
yards and Passages.

A considerable amount of work has been accomplished in this connection, but much still remains to be done, and I propose giving this matter careful attention during the ensuing year.

Some of the passages at the rear of rows of houses are at present in a most unsatisfactory condition, and the work of getting them made up should be taken in hand at once.

In conclusion, I should like to express my thanks to the members of the Sanitary Committee and the Council for the support they have always given to me, also to the Medical Officer and Surveyor for their valuable assistance.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. LLOYD,

C.R.S.I., M.I.M.E.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

<i>Number of Dwelling Houses inspected under and for the purpose of Section 17 of the Act, 1909.</i>	<i>Number of Dwelling Houses which on inspection were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.</i>	<i>Number of Representations made to the District Council with a view to the making of Closing Orders.</i>	<i>Number of Closing Orders made</i>	<i>Number of Dwelling Houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders.</i>	<i>Number of Dwelling Houses which after the Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation.</i>
79	56	3	Nil.	43 13 under repair present time.	Nil.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DEFECTS.

Houses dirty, dilapidated and unsafe, plaster off walls and ceilings, defective floors, damp walls, no through ventilation, defective windows, defective chimneys, smoke nuisances, etc., etc.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES,
WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1. INSPECTION.						
PREMISES.					<i>Number of Inspections.</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices.</i>
Factories	...	...	...	...	23	3
Workshops	...	...	...	...	16	4
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	21	4
Homeworkers' Premises	...	...	...	...	78	6
Total					138	17

2. DEFECTS FOUND.						
PARTICULARS.					<i>Number of Defects Found. Remedied.</i>	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—*						
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	7	7
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1	1
†Sanitary Accommodation—						
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	1	1
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...	2	2
Not separate for Sexes	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total					12	12

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7, and 8 of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Act.

† Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council. Standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops adopted is that recommended by the Home Secretary in the Home Office Order of 4th February, 1903, namely, one w.c. for every 25 workers, with certain exceptions.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE OR IN HAND
DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Houses or rooms cleansed and lime-washed	...	...	24
Internal walls pointed and repaired	...	...	3
Eaves gutters and spoutings provided or repaired	...	19	
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	37
Defective ceilings repaired	..	...	4
Defective windows repaired or new ones provided	...	3	
Defects in sanitary fittings	...	...	19
Floors of living rooms repaired	...	...	5
Dangerous and defective stairs repaired or renewed	...	1	
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	8
Outhouses cleansed, repaired or re-built	...	...	14
Bedroom floors repaired	...	...	3
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	26
Defective flues and coppers repaired	...	...	9
Defective drains repaired or re-laid	...	...	15
W.C. apartments lighted and ventilated	...	...	1
Notice to tenants to cleanse houses	...	...	6
Inside walls repairs	...	...	10
Choked ventilating shafts cleared	...	...	2
Foul rain-water tanks cleansed and covered	...	...	1
Foul quarry sinks re-placed by glazed stoneware sinks		4	
Sink waste pipes repaired	...	...	2
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	3
Old drains ventilated	...	...	1
Samples of water analysed (well-water)	...	...	18
Rain-water pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	2
Additional inspection chambers provided to existing drains	...	...	2

New covers provided to inspection chambers	3
Fresh air inlets provided or repaired	7
Choked ventilating shafts opened, cleared and repaired	2
Overcrowded rooms discovered	3
Backways made up and repaired	2
Infectious disease occurring in out-workers' premises	1
Houses cleansed and whitewashed after infectious disease	4
Complaints investigated	59
Common yards and premises inspected	158
Written letters and notices sent respecting abatement of nuisances, etc.	206
Houses and rooms sprayed and fumigated after infectious diseases	4
Consumptive homes sprayed and fumigated	3
Visits made in connection with infectious diseases ...	19
No. of houses inspected :—	
(a) As a result of complaint	59
(b) „ infectious diseases	4
(c) „ consumptive homes	6
(d) As part of inspection under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909	79
(e) Inspections made in respect of factories, workshops, workplaces and outworkers ...	138
Periodically inspected :—	
Licensed and registered slaughter-houses	6
Knacker's yard	0
Offensive trades	0
Bakehouses	6
Registered milkshops, dairies and cowsheds ...	14